

JOHN BLAIR DEAVER

Born July 25, 1855—Died September 25, 1931

IN the death of John Blair Deaver the medical and surgical world, and thousands of grateful patients throughout the land mourn the loss of a master surgeon. I doubt if the passing of any surgeon of our time has created a greater void and deeper regret.

This enthusiastic statesman of surgery was a star operator, and early achieved international fame. He loved his chosen work which he pursued, with great industry and without signs of weakening, to the age of seventy-five. The surgeons of every land, when they visit Philadelphia in the future, will miss this genial host with his philosophy, his irrepressible humor, his diagnostic skill, and his marvelous technique.

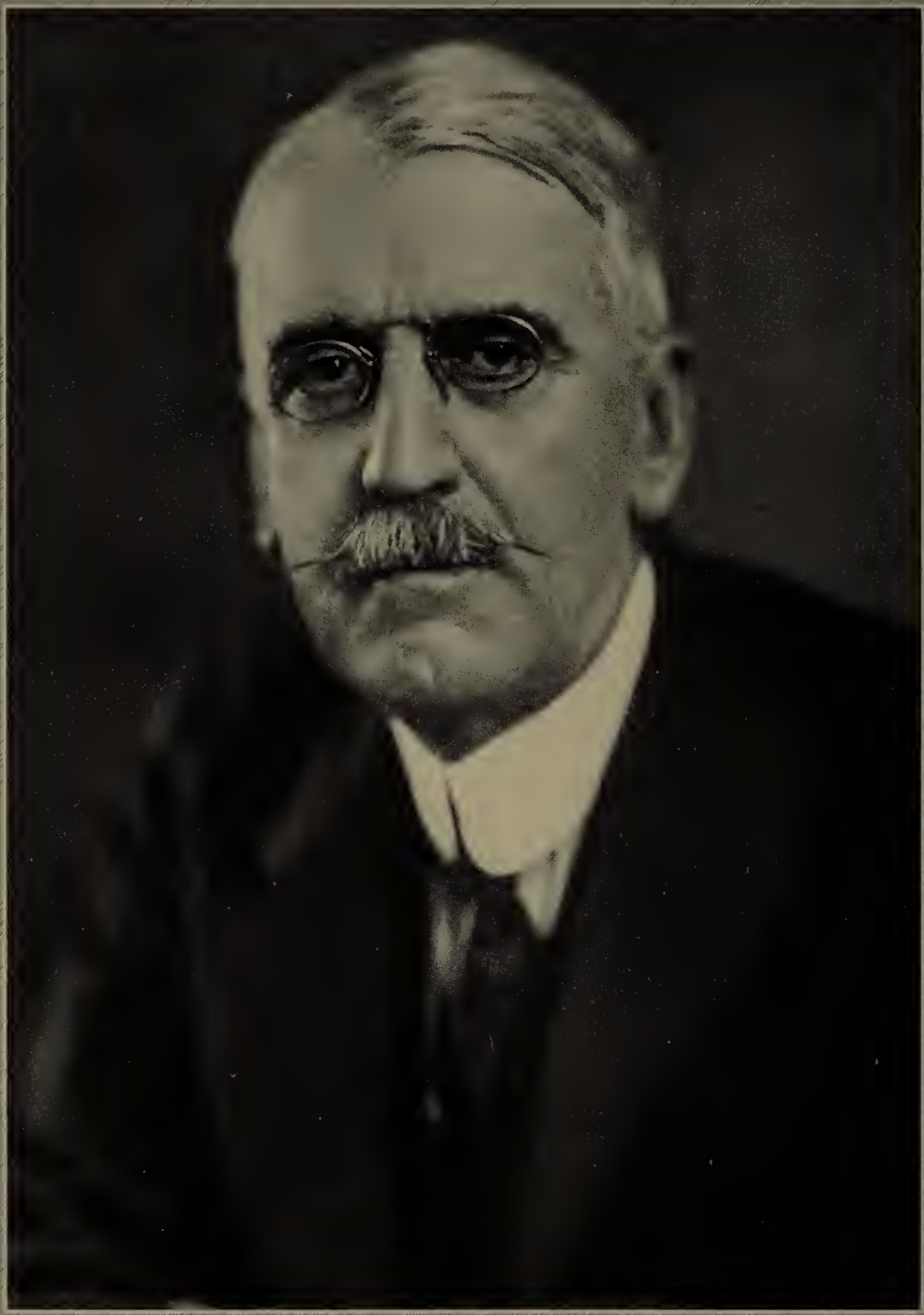
The American College of Surgeons and its official journal—*SURGERY, GYNECOLOGY AND OBSTETRICS*—have lost a great friend. Dr. Deaver was a Founder of the College, a member of its Board of Governors since 1913, a Regent and President, 1921 to 1922. He was a generous contributor to the journal. Among his last contributions to surgical literature is his article on "The Common Bile Duct" which appears elsewhere in this issue of the journal. Like all great men, he was never too busy to do a thing that was worth while, and it is typical of the man that within thirty-six hours of his death he was busy correcting and editing papers which he planned to present before medical groups.

Though he has departed from our midst, there are hundreds of active surgeons who were his students and whose skill commemorates the teachings of Deaver; and from his publications future generations of surgeons will gain practical knowledge and inspiration for all time to come.

FRANKLIN H. MARTIN.

JOHN BLAIR DEAVER was born near Buck, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, on July 25, 1855. His father, Joshua Montgomery Deaver, was a famous country doctor of Lancaster County. Dr. Deaver is survived by his widow, Caroline Randall Deaver; a son, Dr. J. Montgomery Deaver; and two daughters, Mrs. George G. Thomson (Elizabeth Deaver) and Mrs. Emory G. Alexander (Harriet Deaver). Dr. Harry Clay Deaver, a brother, also a surgeon of renown in Philadelphia, died June 25, 1931.

Doctor Deaver received his early education at the Nottingham Academy, near his childhood home, and was graduated from the University of Pennsylvania Medical School in 1878. He was resident physician in Germantown Hospital, and for an additional year served as interne at the Children's Hospital; entered the active practice of medicine in 1880, with offices at 16th and Vine Streets,



Edmund Deacy

Philadelphia. Shortly thereafter he was appointed assistant demonstrator of anatomy in the University of Pennsylvania, which title he held until 1883; demonstrator of anatomy, 1884 to 1887; demonstrator of anatomy and lecturer on topographical anatomy, 1887 to 1891; assistant professor of applied anatomy, 1891 to 1899; professor of the practice of surgery, 1911 to 1918; John Rhea Barton professor of surgery, 1918 to 1922. (Because of his wonderful skill and popularity, the retirement age of sixty-five years for professors at the University of Pennsylvania was extended for one year in Doctor Deaver's behalf.) John Rhea Barton emeritus professor of surgery, 1922 until his death on September 25, 1931.

In March, 1918, Doctor Deaver was appointed professor of surgery in the Graduate School of Medicine of the University of Pennsylvania, and in July, 1931, he became emeritus professor of surgery. From 1886 until his death, Doctor Deaver was chief surgeon of the Lankenau Hospital.

Doctor Deaver was a member of the American College of Surgeons, American Surgical Association, American Medical Association, Interstate Postgraduate Medical Association of North America, Southern Surgical and Gynecological Society, Philadelphia County Medical Society, Medical Club of Philadelphia, College of Physicians and Surgeons of Philadelphia, Philadelphia Academy of Surgery, Philadelphia Obstetrical Society, Northern Medical Association of Philadelphia, and the J. Aitken Meigs Medical Association.

The John B. Deaver Surgical Society, an honorary organization in the Medical School of the University of Pennsylvania, is comprised of students who are particularly interested and adept in surgery. This society is unique in that it is probably the only one that has continued after the person for whom it was named ceased his active connection with the University.

Among the books of which Doctor Deaver was the author are: *Appendicitis*; *The Breast: Its Anomalies, Its Diseases and Their Treatment*; *Surgery of the Upper Abdomen* (1st and 2nd editions); *Enlargement of the Prostate, Its History, Anatomy, Æteology, Pathology, Clinical Causes, Symptoms, Diagnosis, Prognosis, Treatment, Technique of Operations and After Treatment* (1st and 2nd editions); *Surgical Anatomy of the Human Body* (three volumes); *Excursions into Surgical Subjects* (collected papers).

The list of articles which he contributed to medical journals totals 248, many of which have appeared from time to time in SURGERY, GYNECOLOGY AND OBSTETRICS.

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